

REMARKS

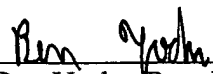
The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhang in view of Severson and in further view of Goh. The Examiner rejected claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhang, Severson, Goh and in further view of Pressesky. The Examiner rejected claims 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhang in view of Pressesky and Goh. The Examiner further rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhang, Goh, Pressesky and in further view of Severson. The Examiner states that D.C. erasing the test signal as taught by Goh would teach one skilled in the art to reduce the amplitude of the reference signal of Zhang. The applicant respectfully traverses this contention.

Goh D.C. erases the test signal to accelerate the decay rate of the track. The applicant is NOT reducing the amplitude of the reference signal to accelerate the decay rate of the track. The heating element is decaying the decay rate of the track. Reducing the amplitude of the reference signal simulates the reference amplitude after the test signal has been decayed. This provides a more accurate indication of the reference signal amplitude after the disk decay. The reduced reference signal provides a more accurate value for normalizing the test signal. Goh would not teach one skilled in the art to shift the amplitude of the reference signal to more accurately correlate with a decayed reference signal. Goh is merely teaching to accelerate the decay by reducing the test signal. For these reasons the applicant submits that Goh does not teach one skilled in the art to modify Zhang to provide the claimed invention.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 1-10 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
IRELL & MANELLA LLP

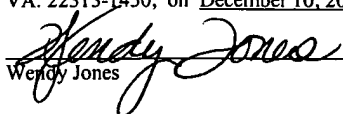
Dated: December 10, 2003


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via First Class
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VA. 22313-1450, on December 10, 2003.


Wendy Jones 12/10/03
Date